

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL

July 14, 2015

The Jasper County Council met this date at 7:00 P.M. C.S.T. in the Commissioners' Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Rein O. Bontreger, Gerrit H. DeVries, John T. Price, Stephen R. Jordan, Andrew Andree, Gary Fritts and Paul Norwine. Also present was Donna J. Horner, Deputy Auditor. Mr. Bontreger called the meeting to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. DeVries.

MINUTES: Mr. Fritts stated that he was made aware of a change by Tom Mathis, citizen, under the headline "Citizen Concern / Mathis". RDNP's previous location was in Lake County, Indiana. The ownership was listed as Schaumburg. Mr. Price made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 16, 2015 with the clarification made. Mr. Andree seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / AIRPORT AUTHORITY: Advertised in the Jasper County Airport Authority Cumulative Building Fund, Capital Improvements, Debt Service, Two 10,000 Gallon Tank Fuel Farm was \$70,000.00. Brad Cozza, Airport Manager, requested per letter an amount of \$34,800.00 rather than the original request of \$70,000.00. The difference of \$35,200.00 has been requested within the 2015 budget. Mr. Norwine made the motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2015-07** in the amount of \$34,800.00. Mr. Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

TRANSFER / HEALTH DEPARTMENT FUND: A request has been made to transfer \$3,100.00 from Other Services & Charges, Environmental Emergency into Supplies, Mosquito Control within the Health Department Fund. Mr. DeVries made the motion to approve the transfer as requested. Mr. Jordan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

WILSON INDUSTRIAL SALES COMPANY, INC. / TAX ABATEMENT: Shannon Shanley, was present on behalf of Wilson Industrial Sales Company, Inc. During 2014, Wilson's Transportation acquired Ulyat Trucking which is also a Jasper County corporation. Based on this acquisition, the base was adjusted to reflect the number of employees that were on Ulyat's payroll. The current facilities of Ulyat Trucking were used to establish a mechanical shop. Two (2) mechanics were hired to manage the equipment for both Ulyat Trucking and Wilson's Transportation. The total new employees for the project so far are seven (7). The agreement was that 5-10 new employees would be hired. Mr. Jordan made the motion to approve the tax abatement for Wilson Industrial for 2015 pay 2016. Mr. Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

TERBORG DISTRIBUTING, INC. / TAX ABATEMENT: Brian Jonkman was present on behalf of Terborg Distributing. Mr. Jonkman reported that he has been able to add one (1) more employee since last year's discussion. We have been able to add 7% to the payroll and 6% to the sales. Mr. Norwine made the motion to approve the tax abatement for Terborg Distributing, Inc. for 2015 pay 2016. Mr. Fritts seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

IROQUIOS BIO-ENERGY COMPANY, LLC / TAX ABATEMENT: A representative with Iroquois Bio-Energy Company was present. Since last year, the number of employees has only been increased by one (1) for a total of thirty-eight (38). Overall payroll is up approximately \$100,000.00 from last year to this year. The facility continues to perform well. We are currently in the process of investing approximately \$5.5 million in expansion of the facilities which will increase production by about 10%. Mr. Price made the motion to approve the tax abatement for Iroquois Bio-Energy Company, LLC for 2015 pay 2016. Mr. Andree seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADVANCE STORES COMPANY, INC. / TAX ABATEMENT: Present on behalf of Advance Auto Stores was Sean Mathew; Kevin Callahan, HR Manager / Remington plant; and Shane Powell, General Manager / Remington plant. Mr. Mathew reported that their original investment is up to \$109 million. The head count at the facility was around 440 – 450 last year. It has since gone down to 340. We are in the process of trying to fill 90 – 110 of those jobs; however, we are having trouble finding people to fill them.

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ADVANCE STORES COMPANY, INC. / TAX ABATEMENT CON'T: There are an additional 60 temporary workers on-site. One of the things that we have done to attempt to remedy this issue is to increase the wages. The average wage from last year until this year was increased by 17.6%. In response to a question from Mr. Bontreger, Mr. Mathew replied that 27.5% of the employees are local. Mr. Callahan stated that some of the community outreach programs that Advance Auto is involved in include the Remington Tower Days, Chloe 5K Run for Autism, and a coat drive in partnership with St. Joseph College. Some of the programs coming up include Rock the Arts and being a Diamond Sponsor for the Jasper County Leadership Program. In addition, we are a continued Corporate Sponsor of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Discussion took place in regards to the possible annexation in Remington. A remonstrance has been filed and a determination has not yet been made. Mr. Bontreger stated that he does believe that the jurisdiction would change if the annexation were to take place. Mr. DeVries made the motion to approve the tax abatement for Advance Stores Company, Inc. for 2015 pay 2016. Mr. Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

MONSANTO COMPANY / TAX ABATEMENT: John Sturgis was present on behalf of Monsanto Company. Mr. Sturgis reported that the staffing numbers remain pretty similar to where they were last year which is already in excess of what we said we would hire for both abatements. Last year was one of the best growing condition years we've had experiencing tremendous yields. This year was the other end of the spectrum presenting more of a challenge for us. As far as community outreach, park benches that are made out of recycled material have been donated to several organizations including the Rensselaer park system and Tri-County School. From Monsanto fund grants, we were able to secure grants for Food Finders as well as the Rensselaer Fire Department and Jasper County Fair. In response to a question, Mr. Sturgis replied that there are currently 58 full-time employees. During harvest, the seasonal help will spike at 220. Mr. Fritts made the motion to approve the tax abatement for Monsanto Company for 2015 pay 2016. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

REMINGTON SEEDS, LLC / TAX ABATEMENT: Attorney Don Shelmon was present on behalf of Remington Seeds. Remington Seeds completed its new seed corn processing building, tower and storage facility in 2014. The new facility bagged 900,000 units of seed corn for the 2014 growing season. The building was projected to cost \$6.6 million. The final cost ended up being approximately \$9.1 million. Remington Seeds had 29 full-time employees, which made in excess of \$1.5 million in wages prior to the start of this project, and projected to add four (4) new full-time employees having wages of approximately \$200,000.00. We have retained all of the original number of employees and now have 33 full-time employees with an additional 10 part-time employees to assist in the operation on a seasonal basis. The new full-time and additional part-time employees earn wages in excess of \$450,000.00 each year. This sum is in addition to the wages earned by the original full-time employees, which pushes the total amount of yearly wages to around \$2 million. Full-time employees receive health insurance, 401K, vacation, sick days and other benefits in addition to their wages. Mr. Price made the motion to approve the tax abatement for Remington Seeds for 2015 pay 2016. Mr. Jordan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

TAX ABATEMENT APPLICATION PACKAGE: Due to the absence of Attorney Monfort and Kevin Kelly, Economic Development Director, the decision was made to address the revised version of the tax abatement application package at the August meeting.

COMMUNICATION TOWER / SHERIFF: Sheriff Risner distributed a letter from Ryan King, 911 Coordinator, regarding the on-going communication issues that the county faces. Sheriff Risner stated that we continue to suffer lapses in radio system continuity on both the 800 MHz and current VHF frequencies. One of the problems is tower sites. The only tower site that is actually set in Jasper County is the Monon tower. Maps displaying the tower locations were distributed and reviewed. On July 13, a shooting occurred in Keener Township slightly southwest of the DeMotte city limits. During the incident, Sheriffs' Deputies found themselves unable to communicate clearly with the communication center on both frequencies. Sheriff Risner stated that we have a local vendor, Midway Electronics, which has a tower that is just short of 300' that we can utilize as access. The tower does meet the Indiana Public Safety Commission's (IPSC) criteria. With the new tower, coverage will improve considerably. Price quotes were distributed and reviewed. With Ryan King's assistance, the second price quote is approximately \$50,000.00 less for a turn-key solution on our communications issue.

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COMMUNICATION TOWER / SHERIFF CON'T: In addition, the use of the tower owned by Midway Electronics will save the county a substantial infrastructure investment. The Sheriff's Office is able to provide approximately \$175,000.00 through the drug fund towards this endeavor. In response to a question from Mr. Price, Sheriff Risner replied that he would need an additional \$155,000.00. Mr. King explained that the connection between the Sheriff's Department and DeMotte cost 911 approximately \$1,600.00 per month. If the new tower is utilized, Mr. King's goal is to run a high-end wireless system which would eliminate this monthly fee.

COUNCIL MEETING / STATE-CALLED: Mr. Bontreger gave a brief report on the State-called Council meeting that he recently attended in Indianapolis.

There being no further business, Mr. Norwine made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Rein O. Bontreger, President

ATTEST:

Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County

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